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EARN AND LEARN WITH A TOWN AND COUNTRY

VACATION PROJECT

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

CIRCULAR 848

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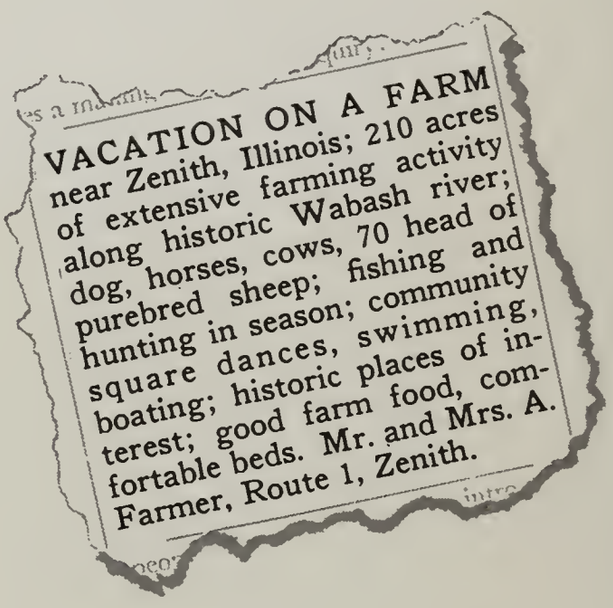
Each year hundreds of city families spend their vacations on a farm. More would like to, but don't know how to get in touch with farm families. Many farm families, on the other hand, are not aware of this interest and desire on the part of the city people.

HOW DOES A VACATION-ON-THE-FARM WORK?

Suppose you are a farm family with spare bedrooms or an unoccupied tenant house and want to earn some extra income while becoming acquainted with city people. You list your name with a vacation or resort service agency, or place a classified ad in a city newspaper. The ad tells about accommodations and attractions of your farm and home, and includes a mailing address for inquiry:


VACATION ON A FARM near Zenith, Illinois; 210 acres of extensive farming activity along historic Wabash river; dog, horses, cows, 70 head of purebred sheep; fishing and hunting in season; community square dances, swimming, boating; historic places of interest; good farm food, comfortable beds. Mr. and Mrs. A. Farmer, Route 1, Zenith.

The city people who read the notice introduce themselves by mail. You exchange letters (and perhaps snapshots) giving information about both families, such as hobbies, special interests, children's ages. As the farm family, you supply additional details concerning facilities and rates. (Rates vary according to accommodations and services offered. Those mentioned by host families from Maine to California range upward from $35 per person per week, including meals, with lower rates for children.) If you and the city family find yourselves compatible, reservations are made and you begin planning for an enjoyable week or two together.

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MENTION THE RESOURCES OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Historic points of interest nearby
Churches and other centers of religious activity
Summer theater; fairs and festivals
Square dances and picnics
4-H meetings; local crafts and hobbies
Legends and lore of the land
Community sports and games
Scenery; possibilities for photography

WHAT CITY PEOPLE WANT IN A FARM VACATION

A well-kept farm; house with electricity
Two or more bedrooms for four or more guests
Inside toilet and tub bath or shower
Good standards of cleanliness
Joining the host family for three wholesome meals daily
A genuine sense of hospitality on the part of the farm family
A chance to watch or help with chores and take part in community activities
A sample of life as country people live it

WHAT FARM FAMILIES SAY ABOUT THIS PROJECT

City and farm families who get together in this holiday-host relationship contribute greatly to rural-urban understanding.

Rural boys and girls are being put through college with income received by opening the farm and home to city guests.

Many lasting friendships are formed, and some city families return to the same farm each year.

One farm family reportedly has hosted as many as twenty city families in one summer. Their guests represented three major religions, eight nationality backgrounds, nine professions and occupations.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Visit with your county farm and home advisers. It may be that others in your county are interested.

A group meeting might be arranged, with your county advisers inviting resource people from the resort and recreation industry to tell you and your neighbors about the procedures and precautions involved in this new venture.

FARM VACATIONS— A REWARDING TWO-WAY EXPERIENCE

Farm couples are finding new and revitalized use for big, comfortable farm homes by bringing in their city neighbors as guests. Some are diversifying their crops and livestock as attractive, recreation-education features for their paying guests. Farm women who love to cook, and like a big family to cook for, enjoy this chance to use their favorite recipes. Playing host to city vacationers can be a year-round enterprise. Guests can be spaced to coincide with less busy times on the farm.

Some of the farm activities that appeal to city families are: milking a goat, feeding the pigs, gathering the eggs, driving and riding horses, picking flowers, picking fruit and vegetables, cranking an ice cream freezer, watching sheep dogs and hunting dogs perform. Such activities contribute much to the growth and development of the city boy and girl, and strengthen the role of the parent.

Prepared by E. H. Regnier, Extension Recreationist, in cooperation with the Illinois Area Resource Development Committee.

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